

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
DHA-02 COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 /072 W  
-----042206Z 027299 /70

P R 041814Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3144

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINT, EIND, IT

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED DEBATE AFTER FIRST DAY

REF: ROME 3469

1. SUMMARY. THE FIRST FULL DAY'S DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT ON LOCKHEED SCANDAL FOLLOWED PREDICTED LINES. OCCASION WAS MADE SOMBER BY TRAGIC COINCIDENCE OF CRASH OF ITALIAN AIR FORCE C-130. ORATORS CONCENTRATED ON INTERPRETING EVIDENCE AND REFRAINED FROM POLEMICS ON PAST GOVERNMENT FORMULAS. SOCIALIST POSITION, TO BE EXPRESSED DURING EVENING MARCH 4, COULD COME CLOSEST TO INDICTMENT OF PAST CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC "REGIME." ROUGH INITIAL CALCULATIONS FOR POSSIBLE VOTING SHOW MAJORITIES FOR INDICTMENT OF BOTH FORMER MINISTERS. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE DEBATE. THE FIRST MORNING OF THE SPECIAL JOINT SESSION OF PARLIAMENT WAS DEVOTED TO CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS MADE BY GADFLY RADICAL PARTY. HAVING TURNED ASIDE THESE MOTIONS, PARLIAMENT BEGAN THE SCHEDULED DEBATE, ONLY TO HEAR SOON AFTERWARDS THE SAD NEWS OF THE CRASH OF AN ITALIAN AIR FORCE C-130 HERCULES NEAR PISA, WITH THE LOSS OF 44 LIVES,

INCLUDING 38 ITALIAN NAVAL CADETS. THE MAJORITY VIEW OF THE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY COMMITTEE FOR THE INDICTMENT OF FORMER MINISTER LUIGI GUI AND MARIO TANASSI WAS PRESENTED BY COMMUNIST SENATOR FRANCESCO D'ANGELOSANTE. THE MINORITY VIEW FOR ABSOLUTION WAS OUTLINED BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC DEPUTY CLAUDIO PONTELLO. BOTH ORATORS PRESENTED THEIR CASES FORCEFULLY, BUT THEY AVOIDED ACCUSATIONS WHICH MIGHT HAVE RAISED THE TEMPERATURE OF THE DEBATE. THE COMMUNIST ORATOR IN PARTICULAR REFRAINED FROM GENERAL CRITICISM OF THE CENTER-LEFT POWER STRUCTURE WHICH DOMINATED ITALY DURING THE PERIOD IN WHICH THE ALLEGED FACTS OF THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL OCCURRED. PONTELLO SURPRISED SOME OBSERVERS BY DEFENDING THE INNOCENCE OF TANASSI, A SOCIAL DEMOCRAT, AS WELL AS OF GUI, A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT. THE COMMITTEE HAD VOTED ALMOST UNANIMOUSLY TO INCRIMINATE TANASSI. THUS FAR, A FEW PARLIAMENTARIANS HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WILL BREAK PARTY DISCIPLINE ON THE LOCKHEED ISSUE, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO LARGE SCALE REBELLIONS AGAINST THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE INDIVIDUAL PARTIES.

3. THE OUTLOOK. AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY--477 VOTES-- OF THE TOTAL OF 952 PARLIAMENTARIANS IS REQUIRED TO INDICT EACH OF THE TWO MINISTERIAL AND NINE NON-MINISTERIAL DEFENDENTS AND SEND THEM TO TRIAL BEFORE THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT. THE DEBATE WILL BE LENGTHY, AND THE CUMBERSOME VOTING PROCEDURE WILL TAKE MANY HOURS. COMMUNIST DEPUTY PIETRO INGRAO, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHO IS PRESIDING OVER ASSEMBLY, TOLD ONE DEPUTY THAT THE SESSION MIGHT LAST THROUGH MARCH 10. ON THE BASIS OF INITIAL DECLARATIONS, IT APPEARS THAT COMMUNISTS, SOCIALISTS, REPUBLICANS, LIBERALS, DEMO-PROLETARIANS, RADICALS, LEFT INDEPENDENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ITALIAN SOCIAL MOVEMENT (MSI) WILL VOTE TO INDICT BOTH GUI AND TANASSI. ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF OTHER GROUPS MIGHT VOTE ONLY AGAINST TANASSI. ALL PARTIES ARE ATTEMPTING TO ENFORCE RIGID VOTING DISCIPLINE, BUT IT APPEARS THAT SOME LIBERALS AND REPUBLICANS MIGHT BREAK RANKS AND SUPPORT GUI'S INNOCENCE. EVEN TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THIS POSSIBILITY AND THE POSSIBILITY OF UNAVOIDABLE ABSENCES, IT APPEARS AT THIS POINT THAT THERE WILL BE A MAJORITY OF ABOUT 480-490 VOTES TO INDICT GUI. THE VOTE AGAINST TANASSI WILL PROBABLY BE CONSIDERABLY LARGER.

4. SOCIALIST POSITION. THE SOCIALIST PARTY STILL

HAS NOT RECOVERED FROM THE ANGRY REACTION OF ITS RANK-  
AND -FILE AGAINST THE PARTY LEADERSHIP'S DECISION NOT  
TO SUPPORT A MOVE TO INCRIMINATE FORMER PM MARIANO  
RUMOR. A SOURCE CLOSE TO THE SOCIALIST LEADERSHIP  
TOLD EMBOFF THAT MARCH 3 MEETING OF PARTY  
DIRECTORATE DECIDED THAT SOCIALIST ORATORS WOULD  
SUPPORT IMMEDIATE INDICTMENT OF FUI AND TANASSI AND  
IN ADDITION WOULD CALL UPON CONSTITUTIONAL COURT  
TO DETERMINE WHETHER EVIDENCE TENDING TO INCRIMINATE  
OTHER FIGURES IN PAST GOVERNMENTS WAS OVERLOOKED  
OR DESTROYED DURING THE COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATION.  
IF THE COURT FINDS THAT THE INITIAL INVESTIGATION  
WAS INCOMPLETE, THEN THE PARLIAMENT SHOULD BE  
COMPELLED TO OPEN ANOTHER INVESTIGATION. SUCH  
A STANCE BY THE SOCIALISTS COULD RAISE TENSIONS  
IN THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE.BEAUDRY

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Type:** TE  
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